

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of United States Army Sergeant Christopher P. Soderlund during ground combat in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Soderlund was a native of Pineville, Louisiana, and enlisted in the Army in March, 2006, training to become an infantryman before being stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Soderlund was assigned to Fort Polk's 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division, and in November, 2007, he was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom until his return home in January, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Soderlund was blessed to have had the time to start a family with his wife, Jessica, his daughter, Adrienne, and his son, Gabriel, who were truly the most important parts in his life; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Soderlund's unit would again be deployed to a combat zone, this time in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he was assigned to Logar Province, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Soderlund was twenty-three years old when he lead his troops on a mounted patrol, July 9, 2011, to check on reports of enemy soldiers operating in the area; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Soderlund and his patrol came under fire from heavily armed insurgents and as the two opposing forces engaged each other in the following firefight, a rocket propelled grenade struck his vehicle and mortally wounded him; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Soderlund's loss was a blow to his troops, but they bravely continued the fight against the enemy until the insurgents were forced to withdraw from their positions in retreat; and

WHEREAS, both family and friends of Sergeant Soderlund were stricken by his loss, but they felt great pride in knowing the depth of the sacrifice he had suffered and that it was for his country, which he so loved dearly; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Soderlund was an outstanding soldier and his awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Valorous Unit Award, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal and the prestigious Combat Infantryman Badge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the wife, children, parents and friends of United States Army Sergeant Christopher Soderlund for their immeasurable loss and for his ultimate sacrifice in the defense of his country's freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sergeant Soderlund's wife, children and parents.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE